



23 reasons to

see Santee.

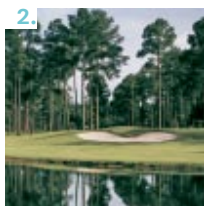
By Joquita Burka

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Officially known as Santee Cooper Country, this region is filled with golf, history, charming towns and some incredible natural areas. Just a short drive from Charleston, this treasure is off the usual tourist path—and well worth the effort.

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1. **Santee National Wildlife Refuge:** 15,000 acres of undisturbed woods, pristine waters and natural habitat for everything from alligators to osprey.

2. **Golf courses**—21 to be exact—make this area a golfer's dream.

3. **Mepkin Abbey**, a working monastery with public gardens.

4. Excellent bass, brim, crappie and catfish fishing in **Lakes Moultrie** and **Marion**.

5. **Old Santee Canal Park** includes trails, sweeping bluffs, Stony Landing Plantation and America's first canal.

6. The unique blackwater **Edisto River Canoe & Kayak Trail**.

7. Outlet, mall, antique, art and boutique **shopping**.

8. **I.P. Stanback Museum**, at **SC State University**, for African and African-American art.

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9. **Santee State Park** on Lake Marion with trails, cabins and camping.

10. Four passages of the **Palmetto Trail**—for a total of 85 miles of walking/biking.

11. **Cypress Gardens**, hiding place of the “Swamp Fox,” offers a reptile center, aquarium, butterfly house and boat tours.

12. **Swan Lake Iris Gardens**, home to amazing Japanese iris and each of the world's species of swans.

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13. Revolutionary War hero General Thomas Sumter, “**The Gamecock**,” left his name around here.

14. **Poinsett State Park** offers cabins, equestrian camping, fishing and hiking.

15. Festivals—anything from the **Governor's Frog Jump Festival** to the **Boykin Christmas Parade & Road Kill BBQ** is here.

16. **Edisto Memorial Gardens** with thousands of roses, Edisto River boardwalk and the Orangeburg Festival of Roses.

17. **Woods Bay State Natural Area**, adjacent to the Pee Dee Country, is the site of a natural elliptical depression called a Carolina Bay.

18. **Barbeque** in every town. Just ask a local.

19. **Mill Creek Park** is unique in offering equestrian facilities, stables and trails.

20. History: **Claflin University**, **Eutaw Springs Battlefield**, **Alex Salley Archives Building**, and much more.

21. Many fascinating sites along the **South Carolina National Heritage Corridor**.

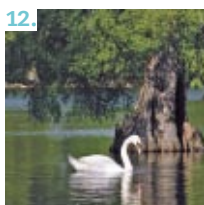
22. **Grand American Hunt**, a qualifying event for the World Coon Hunt.

23. **Railroad Shrine and Museum** in Branchville, the oldest railroad junction in the world.

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Santee Cooper Country, page 108

